

HEALTH

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Sandbach Urban District Council.



## INTERIM REPORT

on the Health and Sanitary  
Circumstances of the District  
for the Year ended 31st  
December, 1948.



*Medical Officer of Health :*

C. DOVE CORMAC, M.A., B.M., B.Ch., D.P.H.

*Sanitary Inspector :*

G. ALLMAN, M.S.I.A., Cert.R.S.I.



*To the Chairman and Members of the  
Sandbach Urban District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present herewith my Annual Report upon the health and sanitary circumstances of the district during the year 1948.

The health of your district remained satisfactory throughout the year.

The National Health Service Act came into operation on July 5th and resulted in the transfer of your responsibility for Diphtheria Immunisation to the Cheshire County Council, and for the treatment of infectious diseases to the Manchester Regional Hospitals Board. Figures for diphtheria immunisation are therefore recorded in this report for the first half of the year only.

Your Medical Officer of Health has been appointed Divisional Medical Officer and Divisional School Medical Officer under the Cheshire County Council. This will enable the Local Health Authority's Services to be co-ordinated with one another and with the environmental services provided by you.

I wish to express my thanks to my staff for the work done and to you and the officials of the Council for the help and co-operation given to me throughout the year. I am indebted to the Sanitary Inspector and the Surveyor for their assistance in compiling this report.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C. DOVE CORMAC,  
Medical Officer of Health

## SECTION A

### Statistics and Social Conditions

The customary notes on the Social Conditions are not requested by the Ministry of Health for the year ended 31st December, 1948.

### Extracts from Vital Statistics

Estimated Population ... .. 8,900

## Births

					Total	Male	Female
Live Births	Legitimate	...	...	...	151	82	69
	Illegitimate	...	...	...	3	—	3
Still Births	Legitimate	...	...	...	1	1	—
	Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—

Live birth rate per 1,000 estimated average population mid 1948—17.3.

Live birth rate for England and Wales per 1,000 of the population—17.9.

Still birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births—6.4.

Still birth rate per 1,000 estimated average population—0.11.

Still birth rate for England and Wales per 1,000 total population—0.42.

## Infantile Mortality

The total number of deaths of infants under one year of age is shown as follows:—

					Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	...	...	...		7	4	3
Illegitimate	...	...	...		—	—	—

Infantile mortality rate per 1,000 live births—45.4.

Infantile mortality rate per 1,000 live births for England and Wales—34.

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births—46.3.

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births—0.

## Deaths

					Total	Male	Female
Deaths, all ages	...	...	...		88	46	42

Death rate per 1,000 estimated average population—9.9.

Death rate for England and Wales per 1,000 of the population—10.8.

Deaths from Puerperal and Maternal causes:—

						No of Deaths
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	0
Other Maternal causes	...	...	...	...	...	1
					Total	1

The Maternal Mortality is 6.4 per 1,000 live and still births.

The statistics for the year are satisfactory and there does not appear to be any occupation that has a prejudicial effect on health.

The following Table shows the deaths from all causes within the district during the past year:—

Cause of Death	Total	Male	Female
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers ...	0	0	0
Cerebro-spinal fever ... ..	0	0	0
Scarlet fever ... ..	0	0	0
Whooping cough ... ..	0	0	0
Diphtheria ... ..	0	0	0
Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	1	1	0
Other forms of tuberculosis ... ..	0	0	0
Syphilitic diseases ... ..	0	0	0
Influenza ... ..	0	0	0
Measles ... ..	0	0	0
A c u t e polio-myelitis and polio- encephalitis ... ..	0	0	0
Acute inf. encephalitis ... ..	0	0	0
Cancer of buc. cav. and oesoph: (M) uterus (F) ... ..	0	0	0
Cancer of stomach and duodenum ...	8	6	2
Cancer of breast ... ..	1	0	1
Cancer of all other sites ... ..	6	6	0
Diabetes ... ..	2	0	2
Intracranial vascular lesions ... ..	5	1	4
Heart diseases ... ..	14	6	8
Other diseases of circulatory system	1	0	1
Bronchitis ... ..	1	1	0
Pneumonia ... ..	4	2	2
Other respiratory diseases ... ..	3	2	1
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ... ..	2	2	0
Diarrhoea under two years ... ..	0	0	0
Appendicitis ... ..	1	1	0
Other digestive diseases ... ..	1	0	1
Nephritis ... ..	1	0	1
Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis ...	0	0	0
Other maternal causes ... ..	1	0	1
Premature birth ... ..	3	2	1
Congenital malformation, birth inj., inf., dis. ... ..	1	0	1
Suicide ... ..	0	0	0
Road traffic accidents ... ..	3	3	0
Other violent causes ... ..	2	1	1
All other causes ... ..	27	12	15
	—	—	—
Total	88	46	42
	—	—	—

## SECTION B

### General Provision of Health Services for the Area

The National Health Service Act has resulted in many changes of Public Health Administration.

An additional provision in the District is a Home Help Service for confinements and cases of illness at home.

Transport by ambulance is now free and cars are available for sitting cases where necessary.

The welfare of handicapped persons and the aged is the concern of the County Health Department who are responsible for administration of Sections 29 and 30 of the National Assistance Act dealing with this kind of work.

The hospitals have now become a responsibility of the Manchester Regional Board.

Vaccination and immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough is carried out by Practitioners on behalf of the Cheshire County Council.

The Public Health Laboratory is now situated at Monsall Hospital, having moved from York Place, Manchester.

The Cheshire County Council also provide a Home Nursing Service, having taken over the work from the local voluntary organisations.

The remaining facilities in the district remain unchanged.

## SECTION C

### Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

#### Water

The Mid and South-East Cheshire Water Board took over the duty of water supply to the Sandbach Urban District in January, 1948, and at the same time instituted a regular system of bacteriological and chemical analysis of both raw and treated waters. Samples are taken by the Board's employees and transmitted to Messrs. Melling and Ardern of Manchester for analysis and a report.

Soon after the taking over of the supply a more efficient type of chlorination plant was installed and steps were taken to improve the method of filtration at the works. The settling tanks in connection with the lime soda treatment process have been cleaned out.

During the year the quality of the water supplied to the consumers has been satisfactory.

The quantity of water available in the Urban District from the Springs at Arclid is limited, and during the year there was some difficulty in maintaining the supply and restrictions on the use of hoses were brought into operation. In addition there were some local shortages due to incrustation in pipes and in a few cases it was possible to remedy the defects.

Four samples of raw water were examined for the presence of coliform organisms and in all cases negative results were obtained. Sixty-three samples were examined for bacteriological pollution and in only one case were coliform organisms found to be present; this may have been the result of bad sampling.

Two samples of water before treatment were subjected to chemical analysis and the results were satisfactory.

The water supplied from the Sandbach Pumping Station is not liable to have plumbo-solvent action and no special analysis for this purpose has been taken.

No action in respect of contamination was necessary.

All dwelling houses in the Urban District with the exception of eleven isolated properties have a piped supply from the public mains. The eleven properties have their own pump wells.

#### **Drainage and Sewerage**

A 70 yards length of six-inch sewer has been laid in Hind Heath Lane for the use of the new houses. One has been built and others may be erected during 1949.

The 500 yards length of six-inch sewer with the necessary man-holes has now been constructed and the new sewer is available for the thirteen premises which were so much in need of this service. Two of the premises with privy closets have now been provided with water closets.

Extension of the sewer for the Platt Avenue scheme for ninety houses has been provided. Seventy-seven of these houses will drain by gravitation to the main Sewage Works and thirteen to the small Elworth Street Works.

The main Sewage Works at Hind Heath Road is working satisfactorily and at present showing a good effluent. The method of dealing with the sludge is quite satisfactory.

The two smaller works have to treat a larger quantity than they were originally intended to treat. No complaints have been received of unsatisfactory effluent therefrom.

## Closet Accommodation

During the year five privy closets have been converted to the Water Carriage System. Most of the houses are on the Water Carriage System but there are twenty-three privy closets and forty-two pail closets in the area.

## Refuse Removal and Disposal

During the year every effort has been made to provide a weekly collection of ash bins and this has on the whole been maintained. Owing to labour being available, it has been possible for this work to be carried out more effectively than in previous years.

## Salvage

There have been collected and sold during the year: —

75 tons of waste paper  
2,500 Cartons  
3 tons 16 cwts. of rags and sacking  
32 tons of kitchen waste  
130 dozens of bottles and jars

## Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919

The present arrangements are that all infestations on agricultural land are dealt with by the Officers of the County Agricultural Executive Committee and all others by the Council's Public Health Department. We have no reservoir or major infestations. Smaller infestations are dealt with by poison baits or gassing.

The sewers have been specially treated during the year and were found comparatively free.

Advice is given to Householders making enquiries who are desirous of treating their own premises.

## Sanitary Inspection

Number of Inspections during the year ... ..	600
Statutory Notices served during the year ... ..	0
Statutory Notices complied with (by Council) ... ..	0
Informal Notices served during the year ... ..	12
Informal Notices complied with ... ..	10
Informal Notices in hand ... ..	2

A policy of interviewing the interested parties is carried out before formal notices are served.

## Swimming Baths and Pools

There are no Public Baths.

## Public Conveniences

The Council are considering an improvement to this service but the possibility of obtaining a loan for this work is being investigated.

## SECTION D

### Housing

The customary tables of activities under the Housing Act is omitted.

Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which formal notices were served under Housing Acts, requiring repairs, and which were rendered fit by owners after service of such formal notice ... ..	0
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Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices under the Public Health Acts were served requiring defects to be remedied and which were complied with	0
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Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	0
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Number of Dwelling Houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders (including Houses under Demolition Orders prior to 1943) ... ..	0
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### Elworth Street Site (Platt Avenue)

Thirty-two houses have been completed on this site, thus easing the housing shortage.

The Housing Committee are anxious that the remaining fifty-eight houses should be completed by the end of 1949. There are differing types of houses—parlour and non-parlour, with two, three and four bedrooms.

Negotiations are going forward for a further site for an additional two hundred and twenty-five houses so that there will be a continuity of building.

### Plan Passed

(a) Dwellings	... ..	24
(b) Additions and renovation to dwellings		9
(c) Other buildings	... ..	35

Housing repairs and renewals have again been difficult owing to the restrictions on the amount of rent that may be charged, the high cost of labour and materials and the priority for new houses, although some occupier owners have been able to improve their own dwellings to a considerable extent.

Altogether one hundred and seventy licences were issued for repairs, improvements and decorations to premises—exclusive of new houses:—

Provision of Bathrooms	...	...	...	...	6
Provision of Grates	...	...	...	...	3
Decorations	...	...	...	...	46
Lighting Improvements	...	...	...	...	10
New floor, doors and windows	...	...	...	...	42
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	63

Number of dwellings erected during the year—including conversion of one house into two houses:—

	Houses	Bunga- lows	Total
By Private Enterprise	6	2	8
By Local Authority	32	0	32
By Local Authority (prefabricated)	0	0	0
	—	—	—
	38	2	40
	—	—	—
Number of Dwellings overcrowded	...	...	8
Number of families therein	...	...	11
Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	75

## Canal Boats

There are no complaints about any of the boats.

## SECTION E

### Inspection and Supervision of Food

#### Milk Supply

Sampling of milk is chiefly carried out at farms by the Cheshire County Council and routine examinations of cattle are made by Veterinary Inspectors for the Ministry of Agriculture. The District is well served so far as is possible and a quantity is sent to factories and retailers outside the Urban area.

The following grades are available in addition to ordinary milk :

Tuberculin Tested  
Pasteurized

Sterilised  
Accredited

Dairies and Cow Sheds

Forty visits have been made to the premises of retailers and producers and a higher standard of cleanliness is advocated.

There are forty-one registered producers of milk in the area.

- 7 producers of Tuberculin Tested Milk
- 20 producers of Accredited Milk.
- 14 producers of Ordinary Milk.

Producers are advised and encouraged to produce the higher quality milk.

Meat and Other Foods

The slaughtering of animals is carried out at the Flat Lane premises, from which meat is supplied to the Urban Districts of Alsager, Middlewich and Sandbach.

The numbers and types of animals slaughtered and of carcasses, organs and offals which were found unfit for human consumption are as follows:—

		NUMBER CONDEMNED				
		Number slaughtered	Livers, Plucks, Carcases      Kidneys			Heads
Type			Whole	Portions	etc.	
Bovines	...	878	26	11	540	99
Sheep	... ..	3,237	1	4	341	3
Pigs	... ..	51	0	4	3	0
Calves	... ..	385	0	1	1	0
Total		4,551	27	20	885	102

During the year eight animals were notified under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938. After slaughter six were found to be unfit for human consumption and were destroyed.

Carcases Inspected

		Cattle Excl Cows			Sheep and Lambs		Pigs
Number killed	... ..	508	370	385	3257		5
Number inspected	...	508	370	385	3237		5

Carcases Condemned

All Diseases except Tuberculosis							
Whole carcasses con-							
demned	... ..	2	2	—	1	—	

Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..	127	130	1	428	4
Percentage of the num- ber i n s p e c t e d a f f e c t e d with diseases other than Tuberculosis ...	25.39 per cent	35.67 per cent	.259 per cent	13.25 per cent	80 per cent
<b>Tuberculosis Only</b>					
Whole carcasses con- demned ... ..	8	14	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..	73	108	—	—	3
Percentage of the num- ber i n s p e c t e d a f f e c t e d with Tuberculosis ...	15.94 per cent	32.97 per cent	—	—	60 per cent

Various amounts of tinned and other foods have been inspected at the shops and market stalls in the area and the following were found to be unfit for human consumption:—

Butter .....	6½ lbs.	Fish .....	18 stone
Bacon .....	11 lbs.	Fish .....	19 tins
Cheese .....	12 lbs.	Milk .....	41 tins
Jam .....	5 lbs.	Peas .....	12 cwt
Fruit .....	23 lbs.	Beans .....	10 tins
Tinned Meat .....	10 tins	Eggs .....	241
Sausages .....	34 lbs.		

There are 29 registered premises for the sale and preparation of Ice Cream and Preserved Food under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

## SECTION F

### PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

As indicated in the accompanying tables there was no undue prevalence of any infectious diseases and there were no cases of diphtheria.

The following tables show the number of cases of infectious disease notified during the past year, together with the number of cases admitted to hospital. There were no deaths.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1948.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever ... ..	13	10	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	14	—	—
Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—
Measles ... ..	34	—	—
Pneumonia ... ..	1	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ... ..	—	—	—
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis ... ..	2	2	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	2	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	—	—	—

Diphtheria Immunisation

The following table shows the extent to which the Diphtheria Immunisation scheme was used during the year up to July 5th, 1949:—

Number of children immunised under school age ...	37
Number of children immunised of school age ... ..	7
Number of children given a reinforcing injection ...	2
Total number of children immunised since the inception of the scheme in 1939 ... ..	2,190

Factories

The Motor Body works has now provided the necessary plant for the extraction of dust from the wood working department.

Factories Act, 1937

There are only two persons registered as outworkers under Section 110.

The following tables, on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937, give details of inspections and cases where defects were found:—

**INSPECTIONS for purposes of Provisions as to Health  
(including inspections made by Health Inspectors)**

	No. on Register	No. of Inspection s	No. of Written Notices	No. of Occu- piers Prose- cuted
(i) Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be e n f o r c e d by Local Authorities ... ..	55	116	0	0
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which Section 7 is e n f o r c e d by Local Authorities ... ..	0	0	0	0
(iii) Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises) ... ..	0	0	0	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	55	116	0	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

**Cases in which Defects were found**

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were Found Remedied		No. of Cases in which prose- cutions were insti- tuted
Want of cleanliness ... ..	0	0	0
Overcrowding ... ..	0	0	0
Unreasonable temperature ... ..	0	0	0
Inadequate ventilation ... ..	0	0	0
Ineffective drainage of floors ... ..	0	0	0
Sanitary Conveniences:—			
(a) insufficient ... ..	1	1	0
Unsuitable or defective:—			
(c) not separate for sexes ... ..	0	0	0
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework) ... ..	0	0	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	1	1	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

## Analysis of Notifiable Diseases under Age Groups

		Under								
		1 year	1	3	5	10	15	25	45	65
Scarlet Fever ...	...	0	0	2	3	5	2	0	1	0
Whooping Cough ...	...	2	4	2	6	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria ...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles ...	...	0	3	11	18	0	2	0	0	0
Pneumonia ...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis		0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum		2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia ...		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

## TUBERCULOSIS—New Cases and Mortality during 1948

Age Periods	New Cases				Mortality			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Up to 1 year	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1—5 ...	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
5—15 ...	0	0	2	4	0	0	0	0
15—25 ...	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25—35 ...	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
35—45 ...	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45—55 ...	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55—65 ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 and upwards	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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Totals	4	0	3	4	1	0	0	0
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